

Message Text

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R 111842Z APR 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA

UNCLAS STATE 083057

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OCLR, TBIO, MY, RP

SUBJECT: R/V ALPHA HELIX MARINE BIOLOGY EXPEDITION,
17 JUNE - 16 AUGUST 1975

REF: STATE 67333

1. R/V ALPHA HELIX PLANS CONDUCT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
IN MALAYSIAN AND PHILIPPINE TERRITORIAL WATERS BETWEEN
JUNE 17 AND AUGUST 16, 1975. THIS WILL BE SECOND
PHASE OF EAST ASIAN EXPEDITION AND WILL TAKE PLACE
ALMOST PRIMARILY WITHIN CONFINES OF SANDAKAN HARBOR,
SABAH, EAST MALAYSIA (5 DEGREES 47 MINUTES N -
118 DEGREES 07 MINUTES E). OCCASIONAL FIELD TRIPS
FOR COLLECTION PURPOSES WILL BE MADE TO TURTLE ISLANDS,
ABOUT TWENTY MILES NORTH OF SANDAKAN HARBOR. LIMITED
ACTIVITY WILL ALSO BE UNDERTAKEN IN GOM AND GOP
WATERS ALONG SHIP'S ROUTE FROM SANDAKAN TO MANILA
OR SUBIC BAY. COPIES OF ALL DATA AND SCIENTIFIC
RESULTS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THESE TWO GOVERN-
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MENTS.

2. R/V ALPHA HELIX IS PRIVATE RESEARCH VESSEL OWNED AND OPERATED BY SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY

OF UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA. VESSEL WILL BE UNDER COMMAND OF CAPTAIN WAYNE E. BRISTOL WITH CREW OF 24 AND SCIENTIFIC PARTY OF 12. CO-CHIEF SCIENTISTS FOR THIS PHASE OF EXPEDITION ARE DRS. BRIAN K. MC NAB AND ARCHIED CARR (BOTH OF UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA).

3. PRESENT ITINERARY FOR ALPHA HELIX AS FOLLOWS:

JUNE 17, 1975 - DEPART MANILA OR SUBIC BAY AND PROCEED TOWARDS SANDAKAN VIA MINDORO STRAITS AND SULU SEA, PASSING SOUTH OF CAGAYAN ISLAND, THENCE DIRECTLY TO SANDAKAN

JUNE 21, 1975 - ARRIVE SANDAKAN HARBOR, COMMENCE MC NAB CARR PROGRAM

AUGUS 12, 1975 - DEPART SANDAKAN FOR MANILA OR SUBIC BAY PASSING NORTH OF CAGAYAN ISLAND AND THROUGH MINDORO STRAITS

AUGUST 16, 1975 - ARRIVE MANILA OR SUBIC BAY; PROGRAM ENDS.

4. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF ALPHA HELIX ARE: OVERALL LENGTH 133 FEET, BREADTH, 31 FEET, DRAFT (MEAN), 11 FEET, DISPLACEMENT 512 TONS; GROSS TONNAGE 297 TONS, HORSEPOWER, 820 (DIESEL); INTERNATIONAL CALL SIGN IS KLFK. WHILE UNDERWAY VESSEL MONITORS RADIO FREQUENCIES 2182 KHZ AND VHF CHANNEL 16 AND HAS SSB AND CWCAPABILITIES ON FREQUENCIES FROM 2 TO 22 KHZ.

5. GENERAL PURPOSE OF PROPOSED EXPEDITION IS TO STUDY PHYSIOLOGICAL AND POPULATION ECOLOGY OF CERTAIN ANIMALS INDIGENOUS TO THIS REGION. EXPEDI- UNCLASSIFIED

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TION WILL CONCENTRATE ON STUDIES OF PHYSIOLOGICAL AND ECOLOGICAL BASIS OF PHYSIOLOGICAL HOMEOSTATIC MECHANISMS, I.E. TEMPERATURE AND OSMOTIC REGULATION AND GAS EXCHANGE. RELATED OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO EXAMINE POPULATION BIOLOGY OF SPECIES SELECTED FOR ABOVE PRIMARY STUDIES. MORE COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM FOLLOWS VIA AIRGRAM.

6. EMBASSIES IN KUALA LUMPUR AND MANILA ARE REQUESTED TO SEEK CLEARANCE FROM HOST GOVERNMENTS FOR ALPHA HELIX TO CONDUCT ABOVE STUDIES IN GOM AND GOP WATERS.

7. FOR MANILA: APPRECIATE THAT MUSLIM INSURGENCY IN SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES MAY PRESENT SPECIAL SENSITIVITIES AT THIS TIME FOR SUCH RESEARCH. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S VIEWS. KISSINGER

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